

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

With entry of the present Amendment, new claims 84-114 have been introduced, and original claims 1-83 have been cancelled without prejudice to prosecution of any of the cancelled subject matter in a related divisional, continuation or continuation-in-part patent application. Support for new claims 84-114 can be found in the specification, examples and claims as originally filed and, thus, no new matter has been introduced. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of the present Amendment.

In the Office Action, there is only a single rejection: claims 2, 5-15, 17-31 and 33-72 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-112 of U.S. Patent No. 6,680,178. The Examiner indicated that this rejection can be overcome by filing a Terminal Disclaimer (*see*, page 2 of the Office Action).

In the interest of expediting prosecution and without commenting on or agreeing to the substance of the obviousness-type double patenting rejection, Applicants submit concurrently herewith a Terminal Disclaimer, filed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c), over U.S. Patent No. 6,680,178.

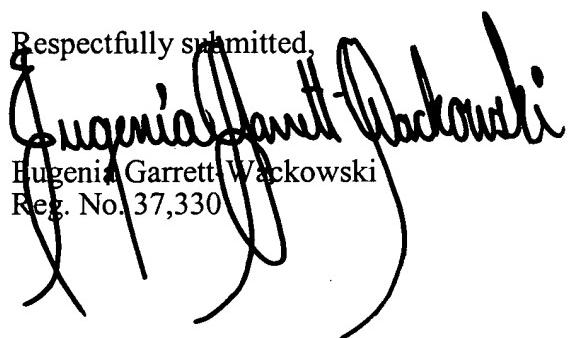
In view of the filing of the Terminal Disclaimer, the Examiner's rejection is rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants urge the Examiner to withdraw the obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,


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